University of Washington
Faculty Council on Research

The Faculty Council on Research met on Friday, March 19, 2004, at 10:30 a.m., in 26 Gerberding Hall. Chair Asuman Kiyak called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

PRESENT: Professors Kiyak, Kumar, Morrison, Rasmussen, Stewart, Tolnay, Vogt
         Ex-Officio Blake, Dworkin, Camber, Kahl, Parks, Zuiches, McMahan. Hogan Barker

ABSENT: Professors Both-LaForce, Heath, Kartsonis, Ruzicka, Sarikaya, Tolnay, Vitaliano
         Ex-Officio Stygall, Hahm,

Guests: Jane Wiseman, Director, Management Accounting and Analysis

Synopsis: 1. Announcements/Classified Research proposal vote
2. Research Advisory Board Report (Parks)
3. Indirect Cost update (Wiseman)
4. Response from GPSS (Barker)
5. ITAR Restricted Research (Parks)

Announcements – Miyamoto Classified Research proposal email vote
An up or down email vote was conducted on the Miyamoto Classified Research proposal presented to the Council by the subcommittee on Classified Research. Of 18 voting members, 11 voted on the proposal. A quorum having all voted yes, the proposal was approved.

Research Advisory Board Report
Mac Parks reported on the Research Advisory Board's Research Infrastructure Review, and provided a handout for the Council's consideration.

The Infrastructure Review is being conducted to appropriately allocate the Central Administration's share of F&A cost recovery, which amounts to some $170 million. Part of that money goes to schools and colleges, but part goes to fund the infrastructure that supports the UW's research effort (e.g., Grant and Contract Services, Grant and Contract Accounting, libraries, etc.).

The Office of Research has asked fourteen units to do a self-study and needs assessment. At present, the Research Advisory Board is synthesizing the reports preparatory to deciding on the allocations. Criteria for infrastructure investments include compliance issues, affect on the greatest number of researchers, growth potential, recovery potential, and other considerations.

Parks described the document and the process of creating it in detail and asked that Council members provide comments on the material to Asuman Kiyak or Ross Heath before the April 3 Research Advisory Board meeting. He would like Council members to answer the question "What do you think is most important?" in both assessment criteria and priorities, by naming the five or six top priorities they see in the handout. Parks said there are three unit reports missing from the handout – he will supply these for review as soon as he receives them.

Parks and Craig Hogan would also like to have comments on how this process can be improved in the future, since this will be an annual review.
**Indirect Cost update**

Jane Wiseman, Director of Management Accounting and Analysis, reported on changes to the Indirect Cost Recovery process. A proposal asking for rate changes will be submitted at the end of June, rather than at the end of March as previously planned.

Accounting wants to increase the UW's cost recovery rate, if possible, by reviewing all costs to see if any of them can be reclassified from administrative costs to facilities costs. OMB Circular C-21 may allow them to do this in some areas – disaster preparedness costs are one example of costs that may actually be recoverable. Construction costs are another area where potential cost recovery can be greater under certain circumstances. Static or decreasing state funding has a downward affect on F&A recovery.

F&A rates must be renegotiated in 2004, but it may be advantageous to renegotiate for a short period, because the research base will not be growing as rapidly as it did in FY 2001-2003. Wiseman does not see a F&A rate increase in the offing for the UW. The highest F&A rate now paid at any university is 69.5%, due to high facilities costs in New York City.

Wiseman discussed costs that can be recovered for future construction. Building depreciation, building interest, and operations and maintenance costs for buildings that will be occupied during the period when rates will be in effect are submitted with the F&A proposal. These costs typically are not reimbursed at their calculated value, due to the uncertainty of costs and occupation/completion dates. In addition, operations and maintenance costs for future construction rarely are reimbursed.

Kiyak thanked Wiseman for the update, and asked her to keep the Council informed as June approaches.

**Response from Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

GPSS Rep Theresa Barker provided the Council with a handout of verbatim comments from GPSS members. Concerns include:

- Frustration with the lengthy Human Subjects Review process
- Feelings of insularity, needs for more collegiality and discussion with faculty
- Desire for a forum on the process of research, working with advisers, and other issues

Parks said a system is being developed for electronic submission and management of Human Subjects applications. This will include a platform for training. Parks hopes this will speed up the process. The first iteration of the system, involving a few departments, will come on stream in about a month.

The Graduate School has monthly colloquia on science, and on other topics as required, such as the upcoming colloquium on "Re-envisioning the PhD Project." The Graduate Education office in Medicine has put together a Graduate Career Seminar that encourages students to share information in this area. Barker thanked the Council for this information and will continue to provide a monthly link for questions and concerns coming from GPSS.

**ITAR Restricted Research**

Parks inquired about the item on restricted research that was approved by the Council last spring for a recommendation to the Senate Executive Committee. If nothing has happened, this is a problem. Kiyak said that other matters intervened, but she will make sure it is on the SEC agenda for April 5.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m. *Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.*